

## National Roster of Environmental Dispute Resolution and Consensus Building Professionals

### Program Overview July 2005

The National Roster of Environmental Dispute Resolution and Consensus Building Professionals (“Roster of ECR Practitioners”) is managed by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, an independent, impartial federal program established by Congress to assist parties in resolving environmental, natural resource and public lands disputes. The roster was developed, with the support of the Environmental Protection Agency, after three years of gathering input from users, private dispute resolution practitioners, and others. The roster first became operational in February 2000 and the searchable database became directly accessible to the public in October 2004.

### Purpose of the Roster and the Referral/Advice System

This system is designed to provide...

- **an efficient, credible and user-friendly source** from which to systematically identify experienced environmental mediators, facilitators, consensus builders, process designers, conflict assessors, system designers, neutral evaluators/fact finders, superfund allocators, regulatory negotiation neutrals.
- **detailed Practitioner Profiles**, as a helpful first step in the process of selecting an appropriate neutral.
- **information and advice about selecting an appropriate neutral and using collaborative processes.**
- **a useful tool for locating appropriate practitioners and a central place from which...**
  - the U.S. Institute can locate practitioners who have experience with environmental issues, particularly to implement the enabling legislation which directs the U.S. Institute to use service providers in the geographic area of the dispute to the maximum extent possible.
  - the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Conflict Prevention and Dispute Resolution Center, EPA Regional ADR Specialists, the Department of Interior’s Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution, the DOI Dispute Resolution Council, and the Federal Highway Administration can locate practitioners who have experience with environmental issues.
  - anyone involved in environmental disputes or situations can locate practitioners who have experience with environmental issues.

## **Roster Search and Referral Services are Available to:**

- **anyone interested in locating ECR practitioners! The roster search became directly accessible to the public in October 2004.** Now, anyone interested in locating ECR practitioners has choices: Contact the U.S. Institute for a referral through the Roster Manager (520-670-5299; [roster@ecr.gov](mailto:roster@ecr.gov)) or register in the search system and search the roster themselves. Of course, the Roster Manager is available to assist searchers in getting the best use of the roster search and to provide advice about next steps.
- U.S. Institute program managers as a primary source for identifying practitioners when making referrals and when locating neutrals for subcontracting.
- EPA Conflict Prevention and Dispute Resolution Center, and Regional EPA ADR personnel (searchers since February 2000). The administrators of the EPA prime contract (searchers since May 2003); DOI Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) and several members of the DOI Dispute Resolution Council (IDRC: ADR personnel from various DOI bureaus) (searchers since November 2002)
- Roster Members (85 Roster Members have become searchers since September 2003)

## **Each Practitioner on the Roster has Experience that Matches These Entry Criteria**

- 1.) Has served as a lead neutral in a collaborative process (e.g., mediation, consensus building, conflict assessment) for at least **200 case hours** in two to ten environmental cases, **and**
- 2.) Has accumulated a total of **60 points across three categories:** additional case experience and complex case experience; experience as a trainer or trainee; and substantive work/volunteer/educational experience in fields related to alternative dispute resolution/environmental conflict resolution, such as law, science, or public administration.

## **The Practitioner Profile Provided to Referral Requestors (and Available by Searching Directly) Includes:**

- contact information, fee structure, and a narrative summary
- descriptions of up to five selected cases
- examples of training courses taken or provided
- a list of the types of issues in which the practitioner has case experience
- areas of the country/foreign countries in which the practitioner has worked
- special capacities (e.g., computer/web support, access to technical experts)
- professional and education experience
- language proficiency information

## How the Referral, Advice, and Assistance Process Works

1. **A stakeholder or other interested person contacts the Institute.** The Roster Manager, Joan Calcagno, gathers information from this person and provides advice to ensure a successful selection process and to identify a specific combination of the **search criteria** collated to best meet the characteristics, criteria, and priorities most likely to identify appropriate practitioners. She also provides advice about the proper use of the Profile as a first step only and the process of working with other participants in selecting an appropriate neutral.
2. **The Roster Manager selects from the available search criteria:**
  - The practitioner's location
  - The type of services needed (mediation, facilitation, consensus building/policy dialogues, regulatory negotiations, superfund allocation, neutral evaluation/fact finding, conflict assessment/process design, dispute system design)
  - The type of case experience the practitioner has (from a list of 40 environmental issues)
  - The scale of the case/controversy (local/community; state/regional; national; international)
  - The geographic areas in which the practitioner has worked (from 13 geographic areas, including foreign countries)
  - Special expertise: as a trainer, with complex cases with more than 10 parties, language skills, other project needs (e.g., logistical support for complex cases, language translation or interpretation; information management/computer support)
  - Education and professional experience (from a list of 18 subject areas)
3. **The search is run in different combinations** and narrowed or expanded depending on the number of practitioners from the initial search results and the purpose of the search.
4. **The Roster Manager reviews the Profiles** of the practitioners who meet the selected search criteria, sometimes has follow-up contact with the requestor, and prints Practitioner Profiles for those that are a best match.
5. **The requestor is sent an explanatory cover letter**, the selected **Profiles**, and **two information pieces** (one explaining the search results and one providing guidance on the process of selecting a neutral). Contacts for other existing programs and networks of environmental practitioners are also provided, where available and helpful.

## Searches/Referrals

**Total: 499**

**Average online/direct searches per month in the last six months:** 20

**Total online/direct searches: 256**

Searches by EPA/CPRC, ADR searchers, EPA contract administrators	98
Searches by CADR/IDRC searchers	11
Searches by Roster Members	56
Searches by others (since October 2004)	91*

**\*Searches by others:** academics (18); federal agencies (BLM, DOJ, FHWA, FMCS, NPS, NRC, USFWS, USFS) (12); state government (9); industry/corporate (9); Air Force/Navy (7); non-environmental NGOs (7); public (6); other practitioners/ADR rosters (6); environmental NGOs (5); misc. others, e.g., local government, insurance company, foundations (5); tribes (3); Oregon ADR (4)

**Total USIECR searches/referrals: 243**

Average referrals per month in the last six months: 2

Referrals to U.S. Institute Program Managers (searches for internal referral requests) 70  
 Referrals to others through the Roster Manager (searches for external referral requests) 173

**The USIECR searches for internal referral requests were associated with cases/projects initiated by:**

Federal Government	62	State Entities	3
Regional Forums/Entities	4	Tribes	1

**The USIECR searches for external referrals were requested by people connected with:**

Fed Gov/Entities/Contractors	80	Academic/Academic Centers	6
State Gov/Entities/Contractors	19	Env/Conservation NGOs	8
Other Roster Members; Other Rosters; Other Practitioners;		Tribes/Tribal Attnys	5
Tech firms re: RFQ teams	23	International Organizations:	2
Corporate/Corp Attnys/Industry	17	Private Citizens/Citizen Attnys	3
Local Gov/Entities/Contractors	7	Regional Forums/Entities	3

**The searches for internal and external referral requests are associated with cases/projects and other opportunities taking place in:**

Alabama	3	Maine	3	South Carolina	1
Alaska	2	Maryland	4	South Dakota	2
Arizona	35	Massachusetts	5	Tennessee	1
Arkansas	2	Michigan	2	Texas	8
California	28	Minnesota	3	Utah	9
Colorado	14	Mississippi	1	Vermont	2
Connecticut	1	Missouri	3	Virginia	2
Delaware	2	Montana	4	Washington	13
D.C.	13	Nebraska	3	West Virginia	1
Florida	6	Nevada	1	Wisconsin	2
Georgia	2	New Hampshire	1	Wyoming	5
Hawaii	2	New Mexico	5		
Idaho	10	New York	5	National	9
Indiana	1	North Carolina	2	Puerto Rico	1
Iowa	1	Ohio	4		
Kansas	2	Oklahoma	5	BC, Canada	1
Kentucky	1	Oregon	18	Other International	3
Louisiana	2	Pennsylvania	2		

## Roster Membership Statistics/Information

Current roster members	254
Applicants declined	53
Average environmental/public policy case experience	30 cases
States with at least one listing (including D.C.)	41
Canadian provinces with at least one listing	2

### Number of Roster Members in Each State/Province:

Alaska	2	Massachusetts	13	Rhode Island	1
Arizona	9	Michigan	4	South Dakota	2
California	29	<b>Minnesota</b>	1	Tennessee	2
Colorado	30	Missouri	5	Texas	4
Connecticut	1	Montana	4	Utah	3
D.C.	14	Nevada	2	Vermont	3
Florida	10	New Hampshire	1	Virginia	11
Georgia	2	New Jersey	1	Washington	20
Hawaii	1	New Mexico	8	West Virginia	2
Idaho	4	New York	6	Wisconsin	2
Illinois	2	North Carolina	7	Wyoming	3
Indiana	1	Ohio	3		
Kansas	2	Oklahoma	1		
Maine	7	Oregon	20	BC, Canada	1
Maryland	5	Pennsylvania	3	ON, Canada	2

Transportation Roster (Sub-Roster of Transportation Mediators & Facilitators): 42

## Referral Information (February 2000 through June 2005)

A **referral means** that a member's Practitioner Profile/information was provided through the Roster Manager to a U.S. Institute Program Manager (internal referral requests) or a requestor outside the U.S. Institute (external referral requests)

- **3, 566** Profiles (or roster members' contact information) have been provided by the Roster Manager to internal and external requestors
- Each roster member has been referred an average of **13.5 times**
- Roster members who were members at the end of February 2000 have each been referred an average of **20 times**

## Current Recruitment Activities

We are now recruiting with a focus on diversity in backgrounds and professional services and for geographic balance, particularly in those states in which currently there are no roster members: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina.

## Application Information

**How to submit:** A roster application can be completed and submitted **online from the U.S. Institute's web site: [www.ecr.gov](http://www.ecr.gov)**. Click the roster link. Review the right-hand navigation bar for important information and next steps. Online applications are encouraged. Hard-copy applications are available for those without web access. The application process is ongoing and continuous.

**Working from a downloadable paper version:** You can print a "non-submittable" version from the "Welcome..." page (the first page after you log in). You can download Acrobat Reader from this same page, if needed. Print out the Instructions and the Glossary also. You can use these materials to fill in information and perhaps your support person can do the actual online work.

**It is important to review the entry criteria and read all the instructions and the definitions in the glossary before you submit.** The Entry Criteria (with key definitions) are available from the roster main page. The complete Glossary and Instructions are accessible as a whole, once you have logged in to the application system, by clicking on the item in the right hand navigation bar on the "Welcome..." page or at the top of any application page. They each can be viewed as a whole in a window. You can print them by using the print function by clicking the right hand button on your mouse and using the drop down menu.

### Available from the Website: [WWW.ECR.GOV](http://WWW.ECR.GOV) (Click The Roster Link)

- **Choosing An Appropriate Neutral** (guidance for the process of selecting a neutral)
- **Frequently Asked Questions About Roster Search Results** (information about the search and the process for getting to the roster members referred)
- **Background** on the development of the roster
- Details regarding the **Entry Criteria**
- The roster **Application**

## Questions, comments, referral requests?

### Contact

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